

MINING UTAH'S HERITAGE WORKBOOK NEWS

Utah Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program

January 1999

VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT

<http://www.nr.state.ut.us/ogm/amrpage.htm>

For information about Utah's natural resources and updates on current happenings.

About the Workbook

Mining Utah's Heritage was designed to address and enhance portions of the core curriculum for the fourth grade. The AMR Program staff worked with the State Office of Education in developing the workbook. The abandoned mine safety video, **Utah's Abandoned Mines: Stay Out and Stay Alive!**, has been placed in each elementary school in Utah. This swift-moving video features interviews with people involved in accidents at abandoned mines. The extensive footage of abandoned mines and their hazards is a good way to introduce the workbook to your class! Check with your media center, librarian or fellow teachers. If you cannot locate a video at your school, contact Jan Morse at (801)-538-5305.

Bats and Abandoned Mines

The state of Utah is home to 19 different bat species. Many of these bats use mines as places to sleep, raise their babies or hibernate during the winter. Bats are very sensitive mammals and are easily disturbed by humans. Prior to sealing abandoned mines, surveys are done to see which mines are being used by bats. Bat gates may be placed in those mines used by bats so that bats can still enter and exit their "mine homes." Gates protect people from the dangers of abandoned mines while protecting bats from humans. Please respect these gates for what they protect and for what they protect you from.

Restoring Grassy Trail Creek

The Sunnyside Mine in Carbon County, Utah mined coal for over 100 years. During that time, a small stream called Grassy Trail Creek was moved and straightened to make room for buildings, railroads, and other mining facilities. Now the mine is closed and the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program (AMRP) is returning Grassy Trail Creek to a more natural condition. A lot of dirt left from mining is being moved so the stream can be reshaped with curving bends and a floodplain. Rocks and boulders are being used to create pools for fish. Some exciting things are also being done to replant the area. Before it was disturbed, Grassy Trail Creek had willows, cottonwoods, and other water-loving plants growing along its banks. We are cutting stems and branches from willows and cottonwood trees, saving them while the new stream channel is built, and then planting those stems by sticking them back into the ground. As long as the cuttings stay wet they will sprout roots and grow. Planting cuttings directly into the ground is called **bioengineering** and is one of the tools we can use to improve the quality of Utah's streams.

Why is Mining Important to You?

Mining is an integral part of your everyday life. The slogan "if it wasn't grown, it was mined" is true. Think about all the things you use everyday: your cup is either made of clay or plastics, both of which come from materials taken from the earth. Your car, telephone, computer, your lightweight mountain bike--all couldn't be made without raw materials that come from mining. Mining can't occur without some environmental impact. But today's mining operations are required to have permits which guarantee that all the adverse impacts will be cleaned up. If we are to live the lifestyle to which we have become accustomed, mining has to happen. The current mining industry is not the same industry that created the abandoned mines which present a serious physical safety hazard to the public. Call the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program at (801) 538-5305 for ideas about field trips, videos, or classroom activities that you can use.

ATVs and Abandoned Mine Areas

ATV's, OHV's, ORV's, 4-wheelers, 3-wheelers, dirt bikes, motocross, snowmobiles, trail machines: No matter what you call them, off road vehicles are becoming increasingly popular. More and more people are leaving the pavement behind and getting into the backcountry on two, three, or four wheels. In response to this demand, thousands of miles of ORV trails are being developed in the state, including the Paiute Trail in central Utah and a 49-square-mile ORV park at Fivemile Pass, west of Lehi. Many ORV trails are old roads originally blazed by prospectors and miners that lead, naturally, to mines. Mines and ORV's can be a dangerous combination. You can make your next ORV outing a safe one by riding smart. Know the trail. Don't assume that because a trail is signed or in a guidebook that it is safe. Be alert and aware-- there might be a shaft behind that rock pile you want to jump. Stay on the trail. And most important, **STAY OUT AND STAY ALIVE.**

For more information about resources you can use including field trips, websites, and videos, call or write Jan Morse, Educational Coordinator for the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program at the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining PO Box 145801, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801. Phone 801-538-5305, E-mail nrogm.jmorse@state.ut.us

